

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re U.S. Patent Application of

OKANO et al.

Application Number: To Be Assigned

Filed: Concurrently Herewith

**For: CENTRIFUGAL SEPARATOR AND SAMPLE
PREPARATION DEVICE USING THE SEPARATOR**

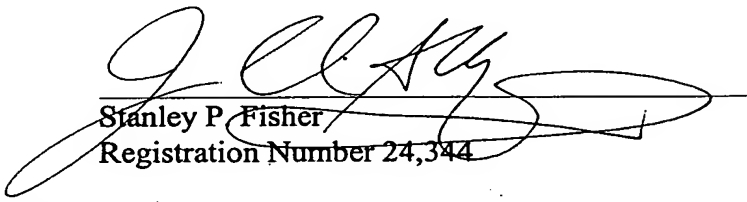
**Honorable Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231**

**REQUEST FOR PRIORITY
UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 119
AND THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION**

Sir:

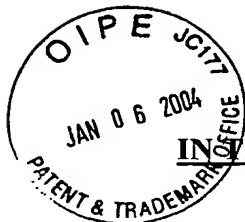
In the matter of the above-captioned application for a United States patent, notice is hereby given that the Applicant claims the priority date of June 23, 1999, the filing date of the national entry of PCT/JP99/03341.

Respectfully submitted,


Stanley P. Fisher
Registration Number 24,344

REED SMITH HAZEL & THOMAS LLP
3110 Fairview Park Drive
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Falls Church, Virginia 22042
(703) 641-4200
December 20, 2001

JUAN CARLOS A. MARQUEZ
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re U.S. Patent Application of)

OKANO et al.)

Application Number: 10/018,430)

Filed: December 20, 2001)

For: CENTRIFUGAL SEPARATOR AND SAMPLE)
PREPARATION DEVICE USING THE SEPARATOR)

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. NITT.0050)

Art Unit 1723 ✓

Examiner:
Drodge, Joseph W.Honorable Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231COVER LETTER

Sir:

[x] The fee for submission of claims is calculated as shown below:

FOR	TOTAL WITH NEW CLAIMS ADDED	TOTAL CURRENTLY ON FILE	CLAIMS PAID	RATE	CALCULATION
Total Claims	50	52	32 (Over 20)	x \$18	0.00
Independent Claims	18	18	15 (Over 3)	x \$86	0.00
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S)				+ \$290	0
REDUCTION FOR FILING BY SMALL ENTITY (note 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.9, 1.27, 1.28). IF APPLICABLE, VERIFIED STATEMENT MUST BE ATTACHED				x ½	
			TOTAL		0.00

In addition, the below-identified communications are submitted in the above-captioned application or proceeding:

- [x] Response to Office Action
(with Claim Amendments)
[] Letter to Draftsperson
[] Preliminary Amendment
[] Other _____

- [x] Substitute Specification and Marked up copy
[] Terminal Disclaimer
[] Petition under _____
[] Assignment

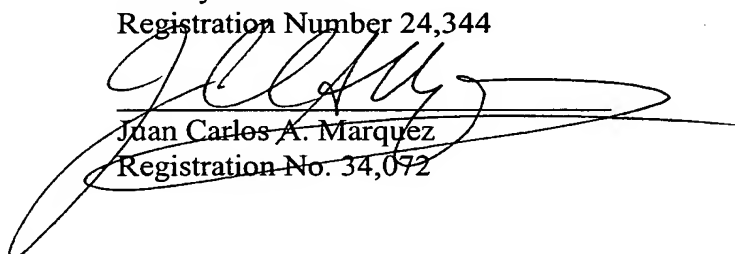
[] Please charge my **Deposit Account Number** _____ in the amount of _____ to cover the fees for _____. A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed.

[x] A check in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the fee is enclosed.

[x] The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication, including patent application filing fees and processing fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and 1.17, or credit any overpayment to **Deposit Account Number 08-1480**.

Respectfully submitted,

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January 6, 2004